

FACT SHEET

Tri-State Mining District

Treece Subsite

Cherokee County, Kansas



March 2001

TREECE UPDATE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 is issuing this fact sheet in response to the community's questions about recent activities in the Tri-State Mining District. EPA Region 7's office in Kansas City, Kansas is responsible for the environmental work being done at the Cherokee County, Kansas Superfund Site. EPA Region 6's office in Dallas, Texas is responsible for the environmental work being done at the Tar Creek Superfund Site in Oklahoma.

EPA Region 7 recently managed the residential lead cleanup in Treece and is continuing to work in other areas of the county. EPA Region 7 is monitoring the Oklahoma situation and consulting with EPA Region 6 regarding the Tar Creek Site.

What's Going On?

Oklahoma Governor Keating's Task Force recently released various proposals for environmental cleanups. These proposals were for the Tar Creek Superfund Site . . . the Oklahoma part of the Tri-State Mining District. A wetland proposal is one of many that the task force recommended. Although this proposal may be considered in the future, for the Oklahoma area, EPA Region 6 has not decided on a new approach. They have planned no actions at this time. Any

planned cleanup in Oklahoma would need to consider Kansas residents' concerns.

EPA Region 6 has not made any recommendations for cleanup work in Oklahoma related to the Task Force activities. They were not a Task Force member. Any of the Task Force's recommendations should not be taken as EPA's recommendations.

EPA Region 6 will fully study the mining wastes in Oklahoma for the next two years. After the study, they will propose cleanup alternatives. The proposed cleanup alternatives will be presented to the community. There will be opportunities to comment on any proposed cleanup plan, ask questions at public meetings, and submit written comments.

EPA is strongly committed to working with the community to make sure we address their concerns regarding the sites. EPA continues to maintain strong community involvement and would not make any cleanup decisions without the community's input.

What's Next?

If EPA Region 6 decided on a different or new cleanup approach for their part of the Tri-State Mining District, EPA Region 7 would look at our past actions in Kansas. We will continue to work with EPA Region 6 and the states of Kansas and Oklahoma. We'll make sure that we maintain or develop a consistent cleanup approach for the area. We would give any future plan or approach extensive EPA and state review, and involve the community in the process.

You can find detailed information about the Cherokee County Superfund Site, during normal business hours, at the following locations:

Johnston Public Library
210 West 10th Street
Baxter Springs, Kansas

EPA Region 7 Records Center
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas

If you have questions about this fact sheet or the site, please contact:

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